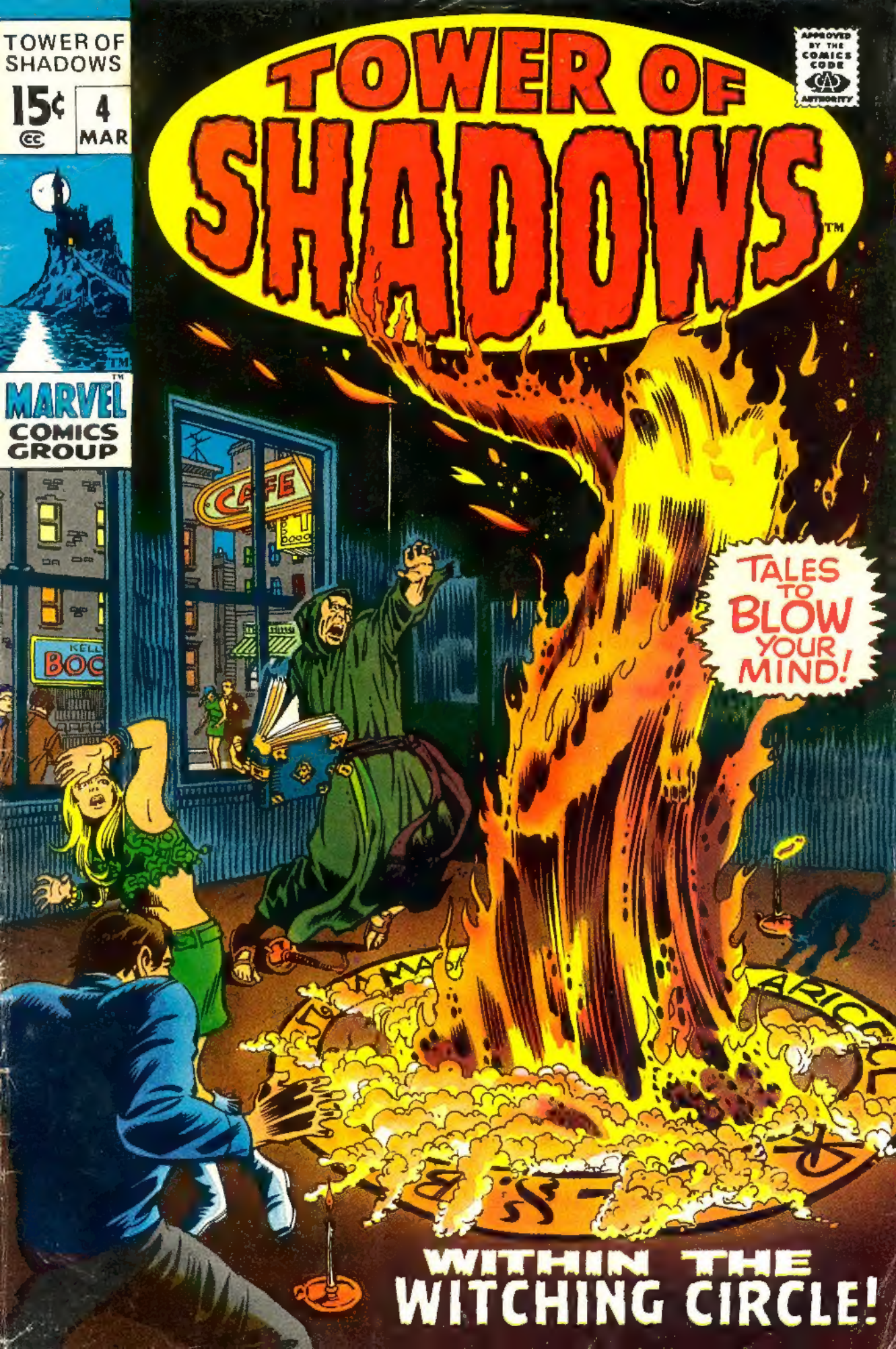
TOWER OF SHADOWS
15¢
4
MAR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TOWER OF SHADOWS™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
TALES TO BLOW YOUR MIND!
WITHIN THE WITCHING CIRCLE!

I put 2 full inches on my arms— 3 inches on my chest and trimmed 4 inches off my waist in just 7 weeks...

thanks to the Joe Weider Musclebuilding Course!"—

WHY NOT YOU?

SAYS MOVIE AND T.V. STAR, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, "Mr. Universe" winner. He believes you, too, can easily duplicate his musclebuilding success with the Weider Course.

Why only the Joe Weider "MR. AMERICA" muscle-building course can MUSCLE YOU UP — SHAPE YOU UP—TOUGHEN YOU UP—FAST in just 7 short weeks—and in the privacy of your own home.

It makes no difference whether you're fat, skinny, scraggy or flabby, young or not-so-young—whether you're an office worker, laborer, executive or schoolboy—the WEIDER SYSTEM will pack 4 inches on your chest, 3 inches on each arm—give you football-player shoulders, muscularize your waistline, sock your legs with strength and speed—and "powerize" your entire body—IN JUST 7 SHORT WEEKS—OR LESS!

Only the WEIDER SYSTEM can do this for you because it is based on **scientific principle**—and **proven** by the hundreds of thousands of Champions it has developed since 1938. Practically every Mr. America, Mr. Universe and other "perfect man" title winners used the WEIDER SYSTEM to build their muscle-studded bodies.

NO OTHER MUSCLE-BUILDING SYSTEM ON EARTH CAN MATCH THIS FABULOUS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT—AND NOW THAT SAME SURE-FIRE SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY WITHIN YOUR REACH!

Just rush in free coupon and I will send you proof that you too can own a new "Wildcat Take-Charge" body in just 7 short weeks—It's free, while the supply lasts!

FREE! BIG MUSCLE-BUILDING BOOK!

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ME TODAY AND I'LL RUSH YOU MY NEW BIG 34-PAGE ILLUSTRATED BOOK — FREE! It's jam-packed with **proof** that you can become an athletic, virile, "Take-Charge" He-Man **in just 7 WEEKS—OR LESS!** It's loaded with photos, tips, suggestions that will help make your fondest musclebuilding dreams come true—just as it did for Arnold Schwarzenegger and over 2,000,000 other successful students! **SEND FOR IT NOW—IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

JOE WEIDER

Is your Personal Trainer! He has trained almost every "Mr. America", "Mr. Universe", "Mr. Canada", perfect men title winners since 1938 — and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over! No other instructor in history can come close to this fantastic record!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF HOW FAST MY COURSE WORKS!

. . . IN ONLY 14 DAYS

HE GAINS 16 POUNDS

BEFORE: Walter Leno, Jr. was weak and "under-nourished" looking—ashamed to be seen anywhere in public.
AFTER: Walter used Weider methods and in just 14 days put on 16 pounds, 2¼" on his arms and 2¼" on his chest!

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO!

. . . IN ONLY 30 DAYS

HE GAINS 25 LBS.

BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed a skinny 135 lbs. with "toothpick" arms and a shallow chest. He longed to be big and strong.
AFTER: Paul put himself under Weider methods and gained 25 muscular lbs. in 30 days, adding 1½" to his arms, 5" to his chest!

WHY NOT YOU?

MAIL THIS COUPON FOR FREE BOOK

JOE WEIDER
Dept. 83 – 20 A
531 - 32nd Street
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Dear Joe: Okay, sock it to me! Rush me your Free musclebuilding information and Free "Muscle Up" book that I can use right away to build a handsome new "Take-Charge" body—in just 7 short weeks—in the privacy of my own home. I'm enclosing 25c to cover mailing and handling costs. I'm under no further obligation.

NAME (please print clearly) AGE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION — NOTHING TO BUY!

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRED MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!

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MAYBE NEW YORK'S *EAST GREENWICH VILLAGE* ISN'T THE PLACE YOU'D VOTE THE MOST PLEASANT SETTING FOR A TALE OF *DEMONS* AND *DESPAIR*... BUT STICK AROUND! *THIS* NIGHT IS NOT LIKE *OTHER* NIGHTS...

...*SURE* I'M GLAD YA STOPPED OVER TONIGHT, SWEET SUE! BUT THAT SORCEROR-- *BROTHER ALISTAR*-- IS GONNA BE HERE ANY MINUTE, AN...

AW, GARY! WHENEVER THAT *CREEP'S* AROUND I GET REAL *BAD VIBRATIONS!*

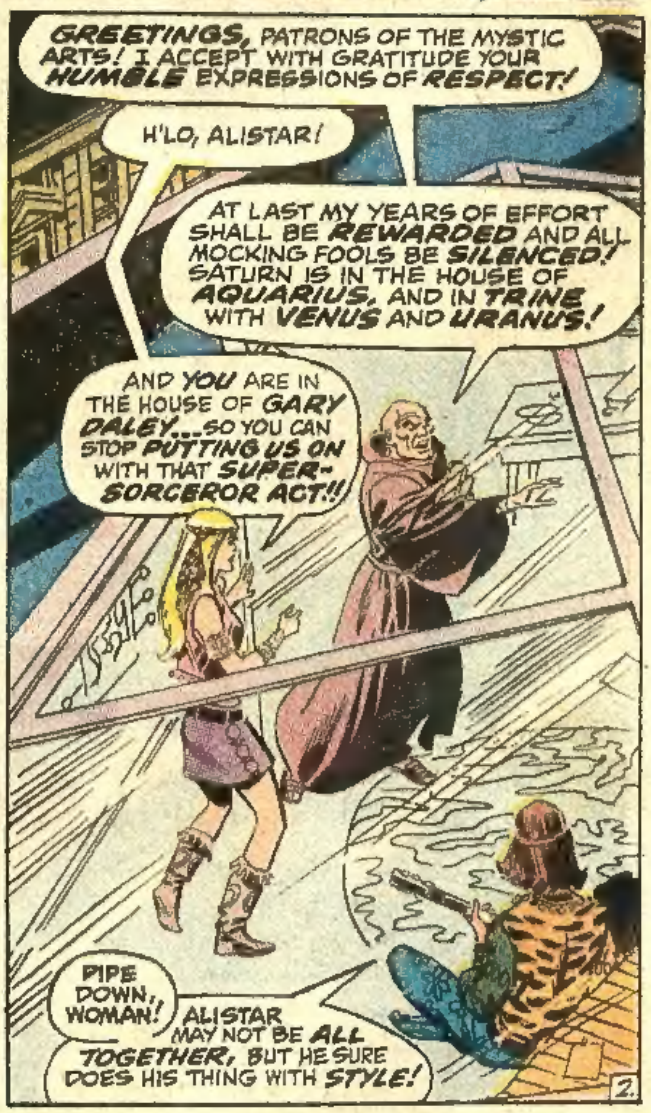
KING KONG IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE CHRYSLER BUILDING!

WHEN YOU MET HIM AT THAT *HAPPENING*, THE *CROWD* ALL THOUGHT HE WAS A *DRAG!*

HE SURE BOLD *YOU* ON THIS MAGIC BIT, GARY, BUT...ISN'T *BLACK MAGIC* SUPPOSED TO BE... *DANGEROUS??*

COOL IT, BABE! BLACK OR *GREEN*... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

AIN'T IT ALL *RELATIVE*, ANYWAY?



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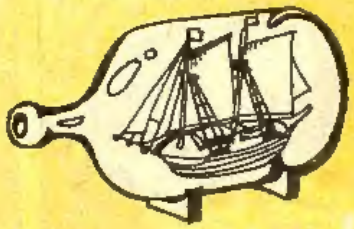
Conversation Piece...Collector's Item...Puzzle

THE AMAZING PENNY IN-A BOTTLE

2 for $1

1 1968-S Cent...
1 1969-S Cent



EACH IN ITS OWN LITTLE BOTTLE

Reminds You Of The Classic Ship-In-A-Bottle

HOW DID THE PENNIES GET INSIDE??? HOW DID THEY FIT???

How can something so big fit into something so small?

The bottles are *real*. No seams. No false bottoms. Solid glass! Yet there they are... the pennies are inside and can't get out?

WHAT'S THE SECRET? HOW DID THEY EVER GET IN? CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT? CAN YOUR FRIENDS SOLVE THE MYSTERY?

A Fascinating Puzzle...Defies All the Rules...Can Your Eyes Be Playing Tricks on You???

ABOUT THE COINS IN THE BOTTLES

"S" tells you the coin was made in the San Francisco mint. The mint mark appears under the date on the "heads" side. This was the first "S" cent since 1955. A true collector's item!

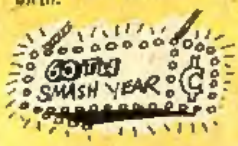
Coins made from the original Lincoln engraving became worn and lost detail. The 1969 cent restores Mr. Lincoln to his original likeness. Hair detail is sharper, garment folds clearer. Everything has been spruced up!

DID YOU KNOW THESE LINCOLN CENT FACTS???

The 1909 cent minted in San Francisco bears the designer's initials—VDB (Victor D. Brenner). Only 480,000 were minted. Some sell for close to $200. Is there one in your bank?

The Lincoln Cent has enjoyed the longest run of any U.S. coin. Introduced in 1909, the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

After 50 years the design of the reverse was changed. From two ears of wheat to the Lincoln Memorial. Designer: Frank Gasparro.



More Lincoln Cents have been minted than the number of people in the world!

In 1943-45 pennies were gray. They were made of zinc coated steel during the war. And in 1944-45 they were made of melted down ammunition cases.

SEND FOR YOUR PENNIES-IN-A-BOTTLE TODAY!

FREE

Coin checklist with your order plus coin kit information plus information about ordering the last U.S. silver coins ever minted.

Sirs: Please rush my 2 Pennies-In-A-Bottle, the Free Coin Checklist and complete Coin Collecting Information $1.00 is enclosed.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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FOR LONG, DRY DECADES HAVE I SOUGHT THE PERFECT, STAR-SET TIME...THE EXACT PLACE FAVORED ON THE ASTRAL PLANE!

BUT, EVEN NOW, IF THE RITUAL IS NOT PERFORMED EXACTLY---OR IF THE LINES OF THE PENTAGRAM WERE BROKEN---WE SHOULD FACE GRAVE PERIL!

DO WE REALLY WANT HIM TO GO THRU WITH THIS?

I GAVE 'IM MY WORD, DOLL!

FEAR NOT SIMPLE CHILDREN! ALISTAR WILL GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY!

SOME RISK IS NECESSARY, IF A MAN WOULD GAIN WHAT I DO SEEK...

...POWER! POWER TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON ALL WHO DARED TO MOCK ME!

HEY, GARY... THAT GUY'S SURE ON SOME CRAZY EGO-TRIP!

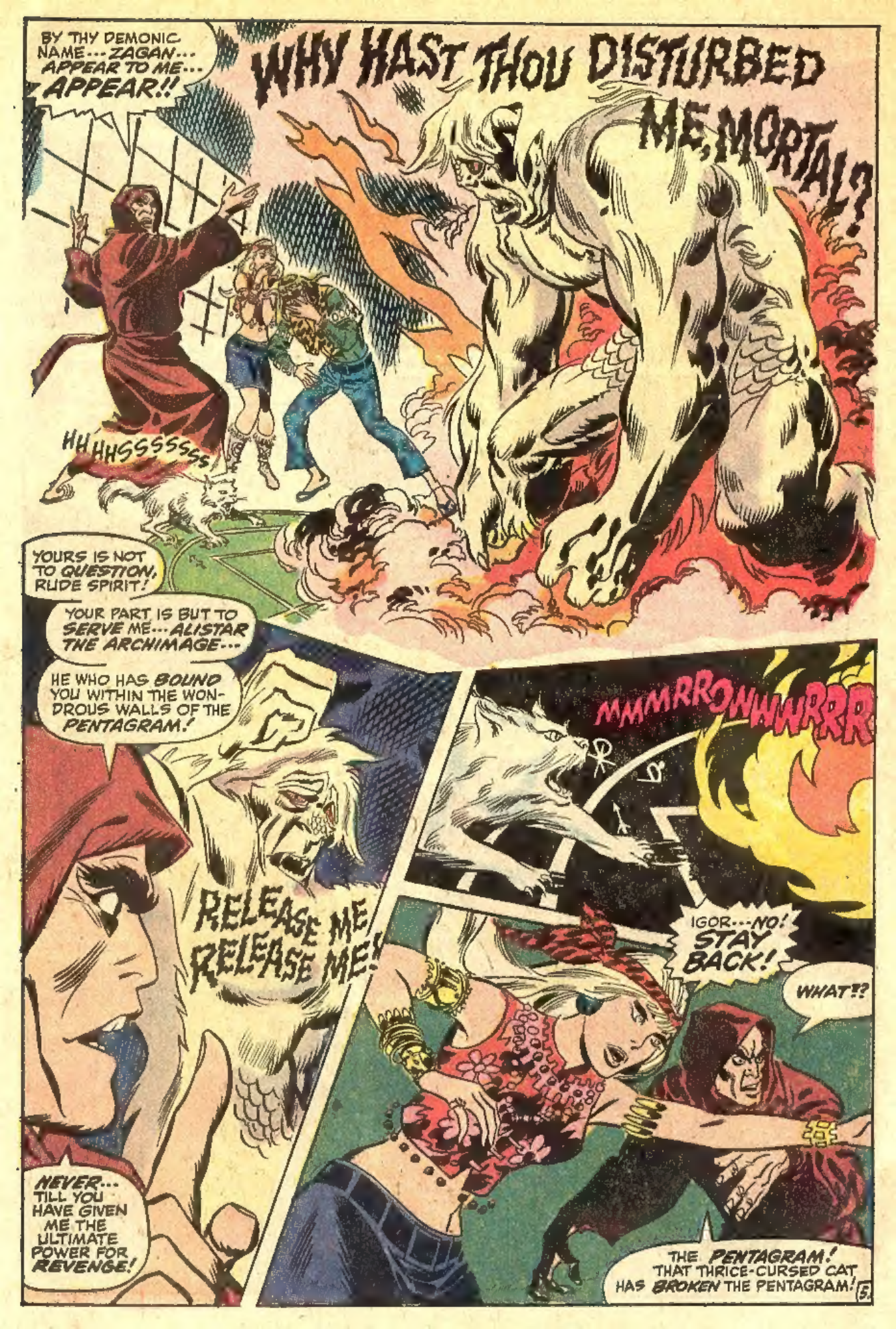
SO WHAT IF HE IS, GIRL? THIS IS ALL FOR GRINS, ANYWAY!

SILENCE! I MUST BEGIN!

BY THE POWER OF THE TETRA-GRAMATON---BY LUCIFER AND BY BELIAL!..

I DO SUMMON THEE!!

HEY, LOOK... FLAMES..!


BY THY DEMONIC NAME---ZAGAN---APPEAR TO ME---APPEAR!!
WHY HAST THOU DISTURBED ME, MORTAL?
HHHHSSSSSSS
YOURS IS NOT TO QUESTION, RUDE SPIRIT!
YOUR PART IS BUT TO SERVE ME---ALISTAR THE ARCHIMAGE---
HE WHO HAS BOUND YOU WITHIN THE WONDROUS WALLS OF THE PENTAGRAM!
RELEASE ME, RELEASE ME!
NEVER---TILL YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE ULTIMATE POWER FOR REVENGE!
MMMRROWWWRRR
IGOR---NO! STAY BACK!
WHAT!?
THE PENTAGRAM! THAT THRICE-CURSED CAT HAS BROKEN THE PENTAGRAM!
5.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #96: The Mad Thinker is back—more powerful than ever, and aided by his Androids of Death! 'Nuff said!

SPIDER-MAN #82: This is a special ish, in more ways than one! Starring the eerie menace of—Electro! And wait till you see the art!

SILVER SURFER #13: A doomsday bomb, about to destroy the earth! The Surfer, alone on an isle of death! It's drama beyond compare!

AVENGERS #73: The Black Panther battles alone—against the sinister Sons of the Serpent! An instant classic!

THOR #173: All of you could ask for—and more! Ulik unleashed! The Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! And action! Action! Action!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #123: Can a female defeat Cap? Don't answer till you meet Suprema, deadliest of the species!

X-MEN #65: The return of the most unexpected mutant of all! Plus—a battle royal against—the Star Spawn!

DAREDEVIL #61: The leering, lethal Jester—the cunning Cobra—the unstoppable Mr. Hyde! And all they want is—DD's death!

HULK #125: The Absorbing Man is back—and ol' Green-Skin's got him! Or—is it the other way around? The answer'll rock ya!

IRON MAN #23: There's never been a hired assassin like—the Mercenary! If you like duel-to-the death thrills, this one's for you!

SUB-MARINER #23: At last! The warlord Krang strikes back! Plus—the menace of Orka, the Human Killer Whale!

SGR. FURY #75: We call it "The Deserter!"—and you'll call it one of the greatest war-mags of all time! We kid you not!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: Marvel at its most macabre—with three of the most far-out fantasies of all! Watch out for falling bats!

MARVEL TALES #25: The web-spinner—the thunder god—and the battling, blazing fireball! Together again in one mag—and terrific!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: The Man Without Fear—and the Mutants Without Peer—in other words, DD and the X-Men ··· and a green-skinned surprise!

AND, OF COURSE—

MY LOVE #4—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—RINGO KID #2—KID COLT OUTLAW #143—MILLIE THE MODEL #180—CHILI #11—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #9—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3— and **PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3!**

and, STILL ON SALE—

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Marvel's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange!

Plus **OUR LOVE STORY #3—RAWHIDE KID #74**—and maybe another mag or two even we can't remember!

Whew!

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DECAL SHEET 1 FOOT x 1 FOOT

DECAL SHEET VALUE $1.50

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OFFICIAL NFL HELMETS

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BEAUTIFUL MINIATURE REPLICAS

FOR KIDS FROM 6 TO 60

Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Professional Football, we offer these beautiful miniature toy helmets—exact duplicates of all the National Football League team colors and insignias. Imagine the surprise and delight as you build your own special collection of all your favorite PRO FOOTBALL TEAMS. You will be thrilled when you yourself put on the teams' insignias and stripes you receive with the helmets. These miniature PRO FOOTBALL HELMETS are complete in every detail, even down to the tiny detachable face-guards. They are a football fan's ideal, a collector's delight, and a treasured toy in the family for years and years to come.

START YOUR COLLECTION NOW

Hours and Hours of Fun and Excitement for the Whole Family. ASSEMBLE THEM... SHOW THEM... EVEN TRADE THEM. Be among the first to start this exciting collection. Make your child the hero of the neighborhood with this 50th Anniversary Gridiron Classic. These little helmets are available in sets of four for only $1.00 as listed below.

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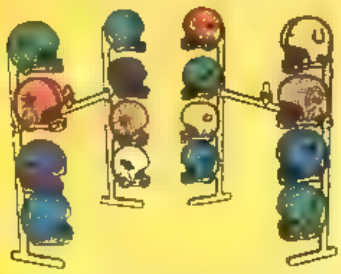
Set A
New York Giants
Dallas Cowboys
Washington Redskins
Philadelphia Eagles

Set B
Cleveland Browns
Pittsburgh Steelers
New Orleans Saints
St. Louis Cardinals

Set C
Green Bay Packers
Minnesota Vikings
Chicago Bears
Detroit Lions

Set D
Baltimore Colts
Los Angeles Rams
San Francisco 49er's
Atlanta Falcons

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER!
ALL 16 HELMETS ONLY $3.00
PLUS 2 FREE DISPLAY GOAL POSTS
with OFFICIAL N.F.L. EMBLEMS



Yes, if you wish to purchase all 16 HELMETS at one time, you will save $1.00 on the purchase price, and in addition, receive 2 goal posts complete with N.F.L. insignia. These goal posts are specially designed to display all 16 little helmets.

ALSO AVAILABLE: ALL 10 OFFICIAL A.F.L. HELMETS PLUS GOAL POST FOR ONLY $2.

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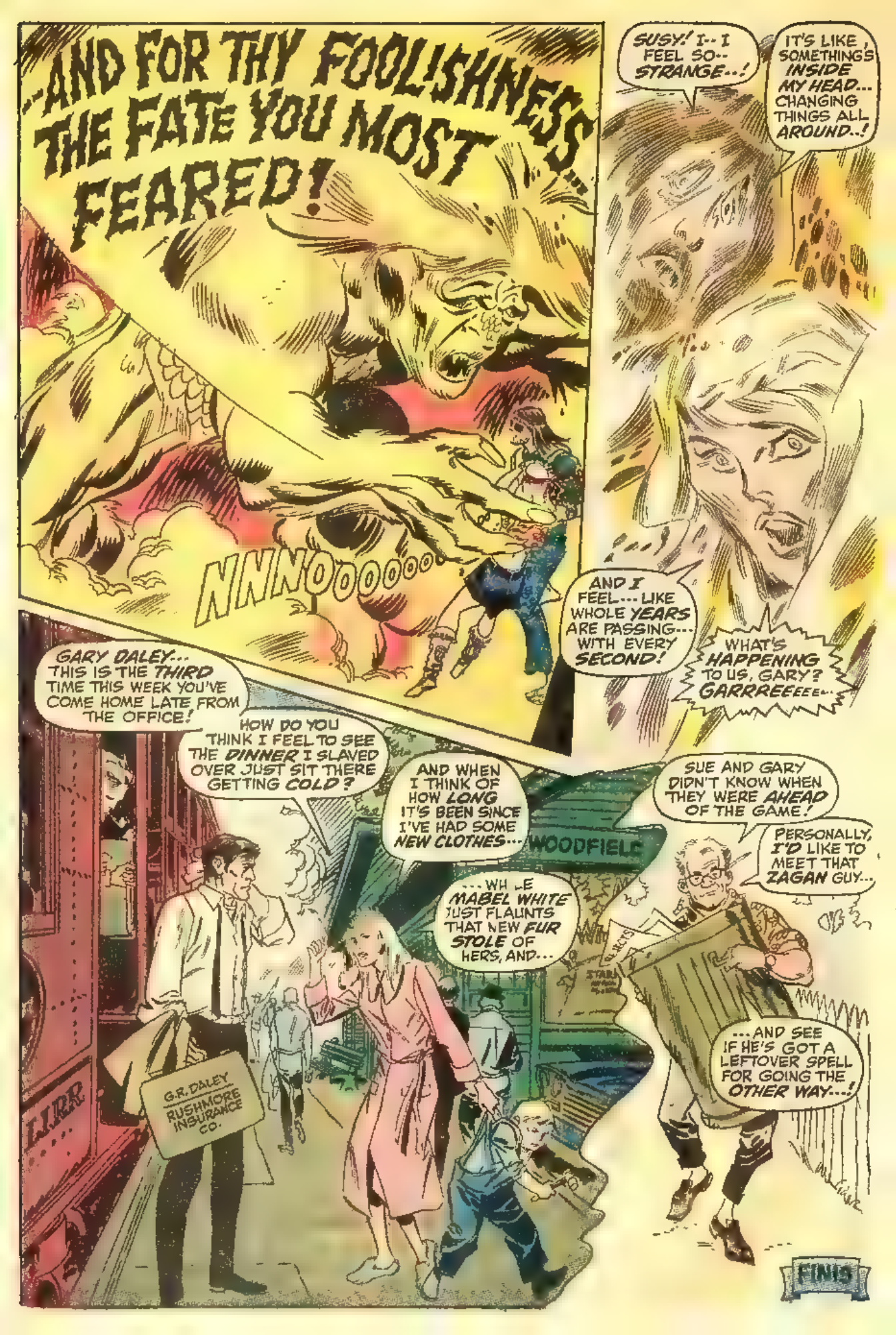
Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. Dept. F—501
4806 Bergenline Avenue
Union City, N. J. 07087

Gentlemen:
Please send me the following HELMET SETS:

☐ Set A $1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg. ☐ Set C $1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg.
☐ Set B $1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg. ☐ Set D $1.00 plus 25¢ post & hdlg
☐ All 16 N.F.L. HELMETS $3.00 postpaid. Plus 2 FREE GOAL POSTS
☐ All 10 A.F.L. HELMETS $2.00 postpaid. Plus 1 FREE GOAL POST

I enclose cash, check or money order. Sorry, no C.O.D.

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____


...AND FOR THY FOOLISHNESS... THE FATE YOU MOST FEARED!
NNNOOOOOO...
SUSY! I-- I FEEL SO-- STRANGE--!
IT'S LIKE, SOMETHING'S INSIDE MY HEAD... CHANGING THINGS ALL AROUND--!
AND I FEEL--- LIKE WHOLE YEARS ARE PASSING--- WITH EVERY SECOND!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US, GARY? GARRREEEEE--
GARY DALEY... THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK YOU'VE COME HOME LATE FROM THE OFFICE!
HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL TO SEE THE DINNER I SLAVED OVER JUST SIT THERE GETTING COLD?
AND WHEN I THINK OF HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE HAD SOME NEW CLOTHES---
---WHILE MABEL WHITE JUST FLAUNTS THAT NEW FUR STOLE OF HERS, AND---
SUE AND GARY DIDN'T KNOW WHEN THEY WERE AHEAD OF THE GAME!
PERSONALLY, I'D LIKE TO MEET THAT ZAGAN GUY...
---AND SEE IF HE'S GOT A LEFTOVER SPELL FOR GOING THE OTHER WAY---!
G.R. DALEY
RUSHMORE INSURANCE CO.
WOODFIELD
L.I.R.R.
FINIS

SIT THERE, MICHAEL ROYAL---SIT THERE AND LISTEN TO THE FRANTIC PLEAS OF YOUR OLD FRIEND, PETER LESTER! REMEMBER, ROYAL? LESTER FINANCED YOU WHEN YOU WERE BROKE---AND NOW--- NOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO BANKRUPT HIM---PUT HIM OUT OF BUSINESS!
NICE GUY, ROYAL! A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART---EH? AND, ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN GRAB!! BUT YOUR LUCK IS ABOUT TO CHANGE! YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A RUN-IN WITH---
ONE LITTLE INDIAN!
WELL, PETEY BOY, MAKE UP YOUR MIND! ARE YOU SIGNING THESE CONTRACTS, ---OR NOT?
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, MIKE---IF YOU KEEP PUSHING, I'LL BE WIPED OUT IN SIX MONTHS!
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS, MIKE ---WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN ME---TO DESTROY MY BUSINESS?
NOT TRYING, PETER---I AM DESTROYING YOUR BUSINESS!
BUT, IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL ---SO PLEASE, NO HYSTERICS!
EDITED AT MIDNIGHT BY STAN LEE!
WRITTEN UNDER A FULL MOON BY MARVIN WOLFMAN!
ILLUSTRATED AT THE CRACK OF DAWN BY GENE COLAN!
DAN ADKINS INKER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

NOTHING PERSONAL???

HOW CAN IT BE ANYTHING BUT PERSONAL?

HOW CAN YOU JUST SIT THERE SO CALMLY? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO ME??

OF COURSE I DO, PETER! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING!

NOW JUST RELAX ---ENJOY YOUR DINNER, AND DON'T WORRY... I'M PAYING FOR IT!!

YES, ROYAL... YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT...MORE THAN YOU KNOW!

YOU'RE HEARTLESS, MIKE! J--JUST HEARTLESS..

HEY, BEEG-BOYS... YOU WANT LOLA SHOULD TELL YOUR FUTURES?

I ALREADY KNOW MY FUTURE, BABY... AND IT'S GONNA BE VERY SUCCESSFUL ...RIGHT, PETE?

YOU LAUGH AT LOLA, MEESTER, AN' YOU MAKE BEEG MEESTAKE! LOLA LOOK EENTO YOUR PALM AND TELL THAT YOU WERE BORN ON THE CUSP OF SCORPIO!

THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS!!

YOU ARE A MEAN ONE, BEEG BOY...YOU WOULD HURT YOUR BEST FRIEND EEF YOU COULD MAKE A BUCK!

NOT BAD, BABY...SO FAR YOU'RE BATTING A THOUSAND!

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU READ IN MY PALM?

DEATH!

REALLY? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DIE...ATTACKED BY AN ENRAGED TEA LEAF??

YOU STEEL LAUGH AT LOLA?

BUT THERE EES DEATH IN YOUR FUTURE... AND EET WEEL BE VERY SOON!

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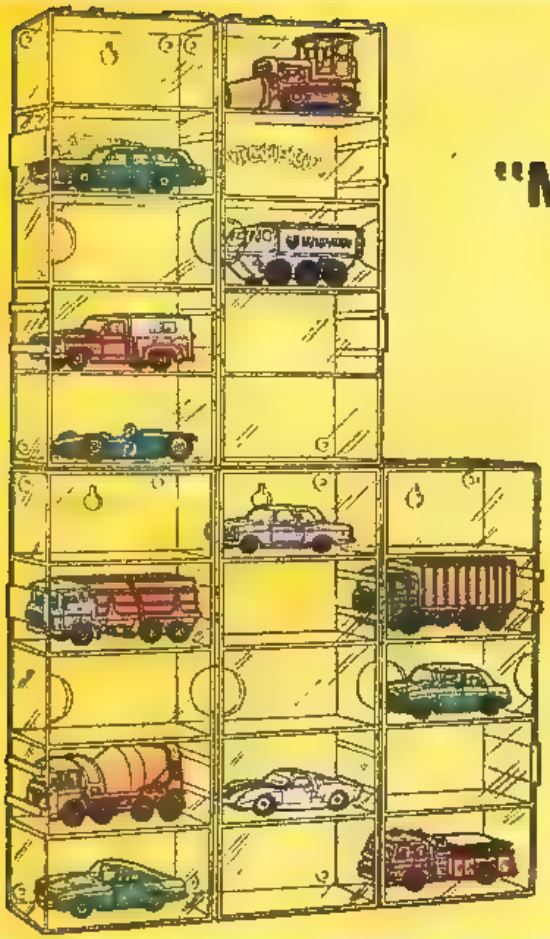

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Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers

Name

Are You a Boy? Age Date Born Year

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Street and No. R. F. D.

Post Office State

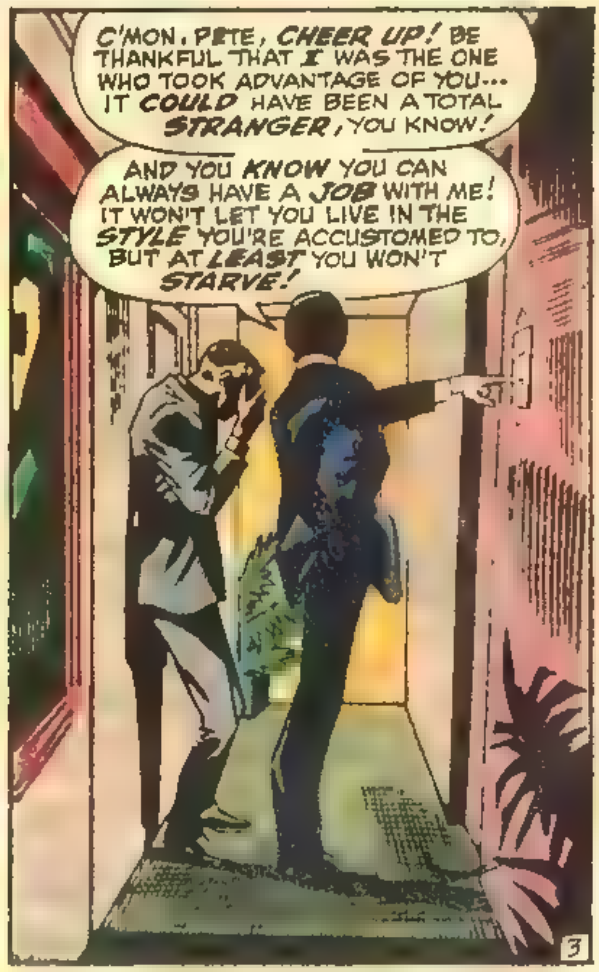
Zip Code No

Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

LOLA TELL YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU LAUGH AT HER...
YOU WEEL DIE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN INDIAN!!

FAT CHANCE!! AND JUST WHEN IS ALL THIS GOING TO HAPPEN?
NO MORE! I CAN REVEAL NOTHING ELSE TO YOU!
COULDN'T YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT??
HEY LADY... WATCH WHO YOU RE BUMPIN' INTO!
HANG ON, BABY! DON T YOU WANT TO GET PAID?

CRAZY DAME! WELL, I GUESS IT TAKES ALL KINDS OF CREEPS TO MAKE THE WORLD!!
I GUESS SO! LOOK, MIKE, I'M LEAVING... I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR THIS EVENING!
HOLD ON... I LL GO DOWN WITH YOU!


C'MON, PETE, CHEER UP! BE THANKFUL THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOU... IT COULD HAVE BEEN A TOTAL STRANGER, YOU KNOW!
AND YOU KNOW YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE A JOB WITH ME! IT WON'T LET YOU LIVE IN THE STYLE YOU'RE ACCUSTOMED TO, BUT AT LEAST YOU WON'T STARVE!

THE NEXT DAY IS SPENT WOOING FUTURE CLIENTS! AND, AS YOU RETURN TO YOUR OFFICE LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
GYPSIES! INDIANS! WHAT A LOT OF GARBAGE!

...YOU'RE WHISTLING HAPPILY...NO INDIAN CURSE IS GOING TO BOTHER MIKE ROYAL...
IS IT???
ULP!!!
CARS

FUNNY... FOR A SECOND I...
BUT IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE... THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF THESE CIGAR STORE INDIANS IN THE CITY...!
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!

DOESN'T IT?? LOOK UP, ROYAL... UP TO THE TOP OF THAT BUILDING... THAT SOLID BLOCK OF GRANITE THAT HAS BEEN WAITING FIFTY YEARS TO FALL... JUST FOR YOU!!!

GET OUT OF THE WAY, ROYAL... MOVE IT!!!
MISTER!! LOOK OUT!!

YOU OKAY, MISTER? YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH..YEAH... FINE! LEMMEE ALONE!!

RUN TO YOUR OFFICE, ROYAL... YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE...!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT GYPSY CURSE ...BUT...BUT, RIGHT AFTER SEEING THAT CIGAR STORE INDIAN...
NO! I'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD... GOTTA GET AWAY!
MISS PAGE!!
COMING, MR. ROYAL!

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. ROYAL! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW INDIAN DRESS?
WHAAA?? INDIAN? NOOOO!!!

MR. ROYAL! THAT WINDOW!! LOOK OUT!!
STAY BACK... GET AWAY!!!

DON'T TOUCH ME!!
MR. ROYAL... HOLD ON... DON'T STRUGGLE!!!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME!! GOT TO GET AWAY!

NOW WHERE WILL YOU GO, ROYAL?!!
GOTTA GET HOME... ONLY SAFE PLACE TILL I CAN GET OUT OF TOWN!
I DUNNO ABOUT ANY CURSE... BUT THIS SURE ISN'T MY DAY!!

TOO LATE, ROYAL...!

BANG! BANG!!

OH NO!!

YOU'RE DEAD, PALE-FACE!

BEHIND YOU..!!

EEEEYYAAGGHH!!!!

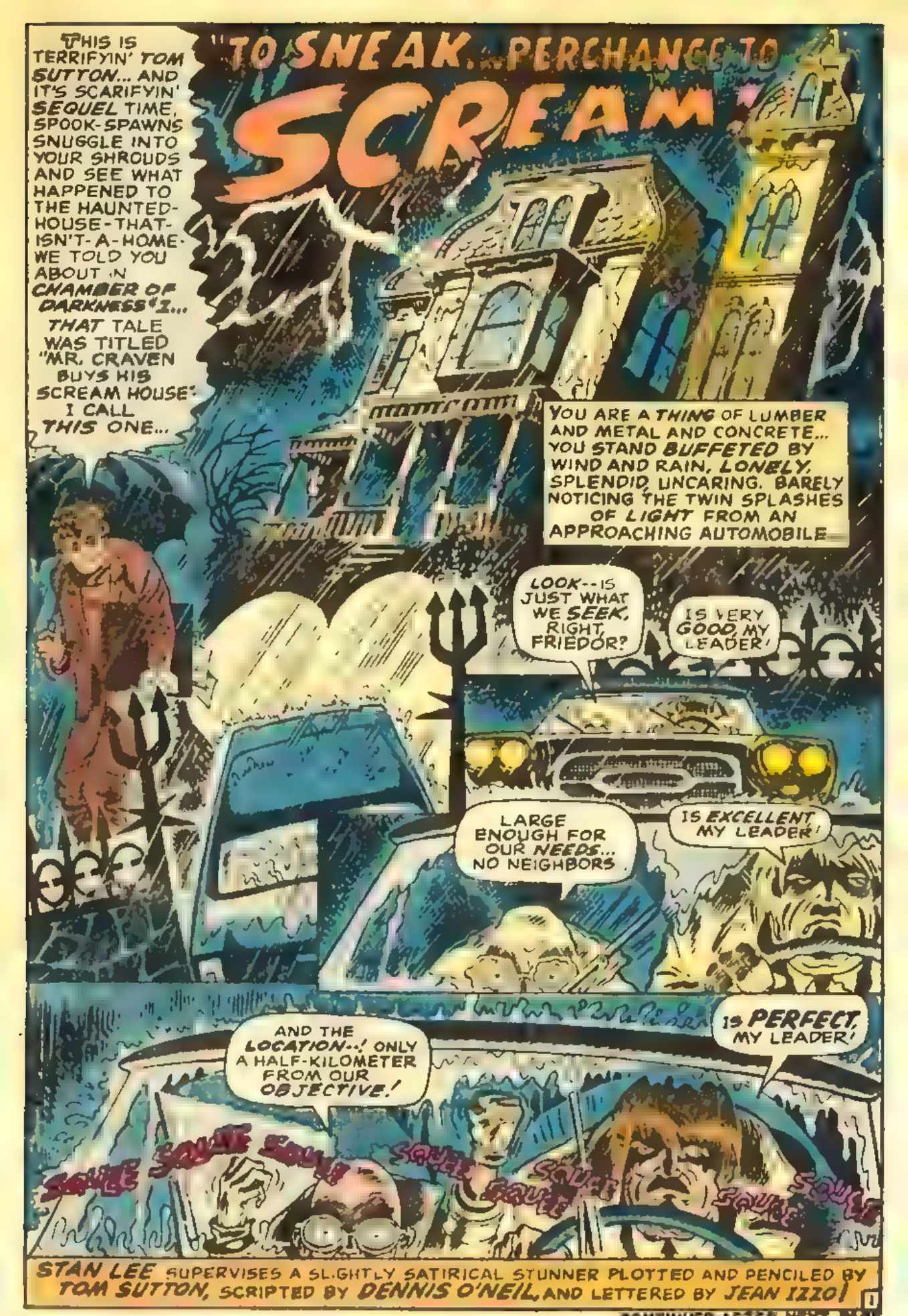
SCREEEECH!!

C'MON, MAN--- CALM DOWN!! THERE CAN'T BE ANY REAL CURSE!

BUT IF THERE ISN'T... IF NONE OF THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING ...THEN I'M GOING MAD!!

I'VE GOTTA SEE THAT GYPSY!!

THE FULL MOON BATHES THE SKY-SCRAPERS IN AN EERIE GLOW... SHADOWS FALL HAPHAZARDLY ON THE STREETS BELOW! AND YOU, MIKE ROYAL, YOU WALK NERVOUSLY THROUGH THOSE SHADOWS...
EXCUSE ME, SIR... WOULD YOU BE SO GOOD AS TO HOLD THIS URN FOR BUT A SECOND! I MUST BRING MY LUGGAGE INTO THIS ELEVATOR!
HUH?? YEAH... SURE..!
YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T ASK, BUT THE WORDS FORCE THEIR WAY OUT...
WH-WHAT'S INSIDE TH-THIS..?
ASHES, SIR! THE MOST REVERED ASHES OF MY DEPARTED FATHER ...THE AMBASSADOR FROM INDIA...!
YOU STEP INTO THE ELEVATOR TO THE SKYTOP RESTAURANT WHERE LOLA WORKS! BUT IT STOPS A FEW FLOORS SHORT OF THE TOP...
...THE AMBASSADOR F-FROM...? ≡CHOKE≡!!
ZZZZZ
SNAP
EYAAAAH!
AND THEN YOU CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING... NOT THE STATIC NOISE ABOVE YOU AS THE ELEVATOR CONTROLS SUDDENLY SHORT-CIRCUIT... AND NOT THE SOUND OF THE SUPPORTING CABLES AS THEY SNAP AND THE ELEVATOR PLUNGES MADLY DOWNWARDS! ALL YOU CAN HEAR IS A LONG, TERRIFYING SCREAM...
AND YOUR LAST THOUGHT IS THAT THE SCREAM IS YOURS!
The END



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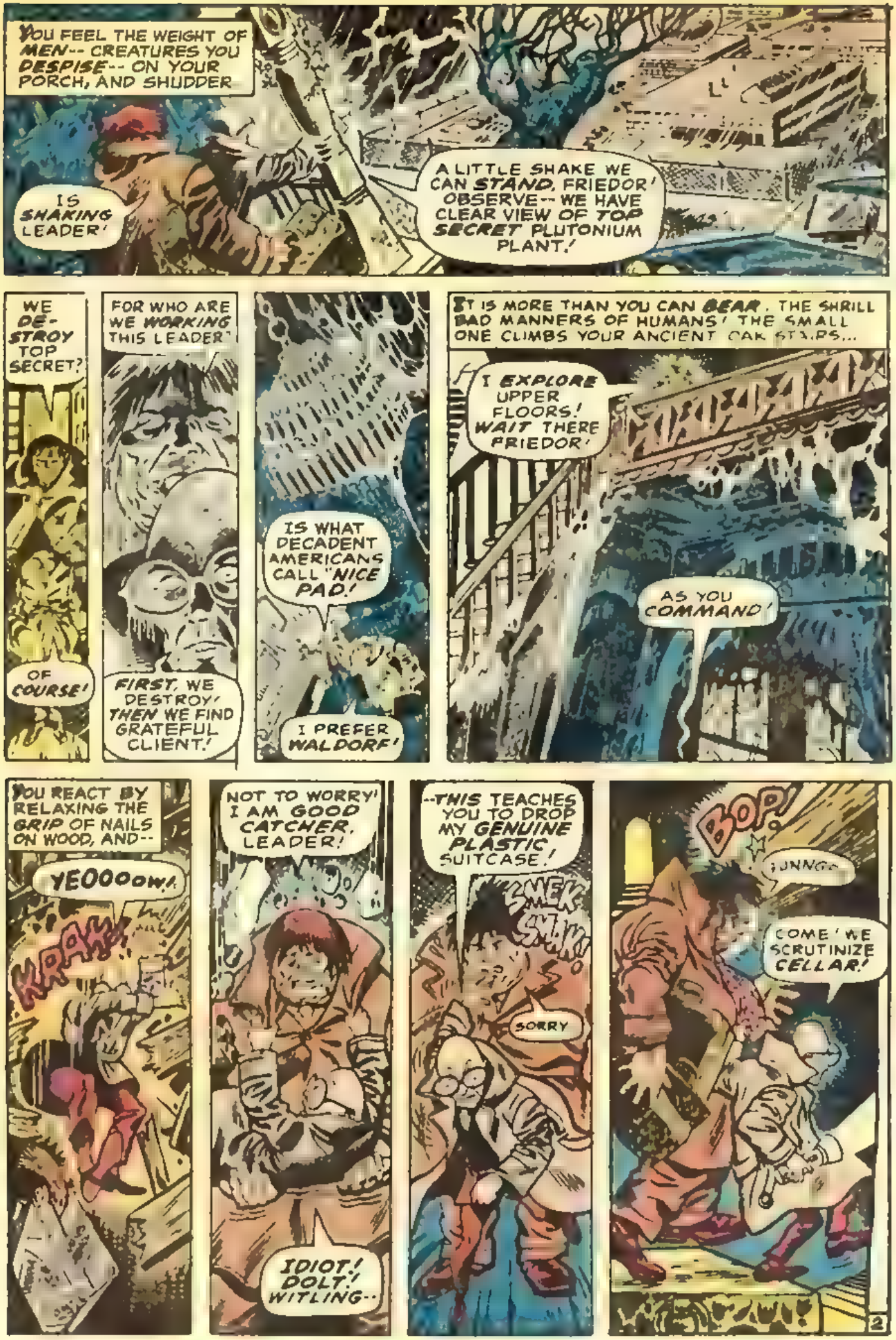
YOU FEEL THE WEIGHT OF MEN-- CREATURES YOU DESPISE-- ON YOUR PORCH, AND SHUDDER
IS SHAKING LEADER!
A LITTLE SHAKE WE CAN STAND, FRIEDOR! OBSERVE-- WE HAVE CLEAR VIEW OF TOP SECRET PLUTONIUM PLANT!
WE DE-STROY TOP SECRET?
OF COURSE!
FOR WHO ARE WE WORKING THIS LEADER?
FIRST, WE DESTROY! THEN WE FIND GRATEFUL CLIENT!
IS WHAT DECADENT AMERICANS CALL "NICE PAD!
I PREFER WALDORF!
IT IS MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR. THE SHRILL BAD MANNERS OF HUMANS! THE SMALL ONE CLIMBS YOUR ANCIENT OAK STAIRS...
I EXPLORE UPPER FLOORS! WAIT THERE FRIEDOR!
AS YOU COMMAND!
YOU REACT BY RELAXING THE GRIP OF NAILS ON WOOD, AND--
YEOOOOW!
KRAK!
NOT TO WORRY! I AM GOOD CATCHER, LEADER!
IDIOT! DOLT! WITLING--
--THIS TEACHES YOU TO DROP MY GENUINE PLASTIC SUITCASE!
SMEK SMAK!
SORRY
BOP!
COME! WE SCRUTINIZE CELLAR!
2

BRRR... IS CHILLY AND DAMP! ALSO CLAMMY!

BUT SUPERB, TOO! BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE OUR EQUIPMENT! DEEP ENOUGH SO NO ONE WILL HEAR IT!

THEIR VOICES ECHO THROUGH YOUR VAULTED CHAMBERS... AND YOU SENSE THE EVIL IN THEIR WORDS! YOU REMAIN STILL, BIDING YOUR TIME...

THEN, THE NEXT EVENING, UNMARKED TRUCKS DELIVER UNMARKED CRATES..

HURRY, FRIEDOR! TO THE CELLAR!

THIS I DO NOT LIKE, LEADER! I FEEL SOMEONE IS... WATCHING US!

NONSENSE! THERE IS NO ONE IN THE HOUSE-- NO ONE!

IS PERHAPS THE HOUSE ITSELF?!

PAH! SUCH TALK IS UNBECOMING TO A MASTER SPY!

NOW, CONNECT THE GENERATOR TO THE CONSOLE!

IT IS DONE!

GOOD! WE NOW TEST THE VIEW-SCREEN!

NO NO! WE ARE ZEROED IN ON THE PLUTONIUM PLANT TO PERFECTION!

IS TOP SECRET NO MORE, EH, LEADER!

IS ALL IN READINESS?

INDEED! SPECIAL CRITICAL-MASS BOOSTER IN TOWER IS READY TO BOMBARD FACTORY WITH BEAM

..WHICH MAKES INSTANT ATOMIC BOMB OF ENTIRE STOCKPILE!

SHAME COURSES THROUGH YOU... YOU WISH ONLY TO BE LEFT ALONE! YET, EVER SINCE UNSPEAKABLE RITES WERE PERFORMED WITHIN YOU A CENTURY AGO--RITES WHICH INCIDENTALLY GAVE YOU INTELLIGENCE-- MEN HAVE INSISTED ON USING YOU FOR EVIL!

YOU SENSE THAT, DESPITE THEIR COMIC-OPERA DEMEANOR, THIS PAIR IS THOROUGHLY, HOPELESSLY CORRUPT--!

WILL RAY GUN WORK THROUGH STEADY RAIN?

WILL WORK THROUGH ANYTHING! I TOLD YOU-- IS SPECIAL!

ONE MORE QUESTION... WILL NOT EXPLOSION EXPLODE US?

NO! I HAVE COLLEAGUE COMING IN RESCUE AIRCRAFT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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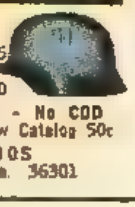

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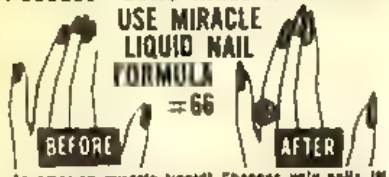

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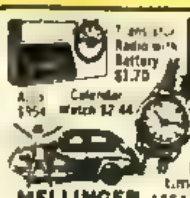

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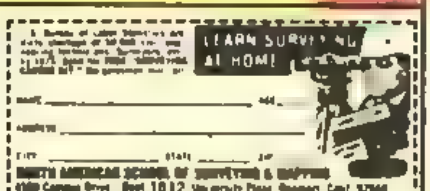

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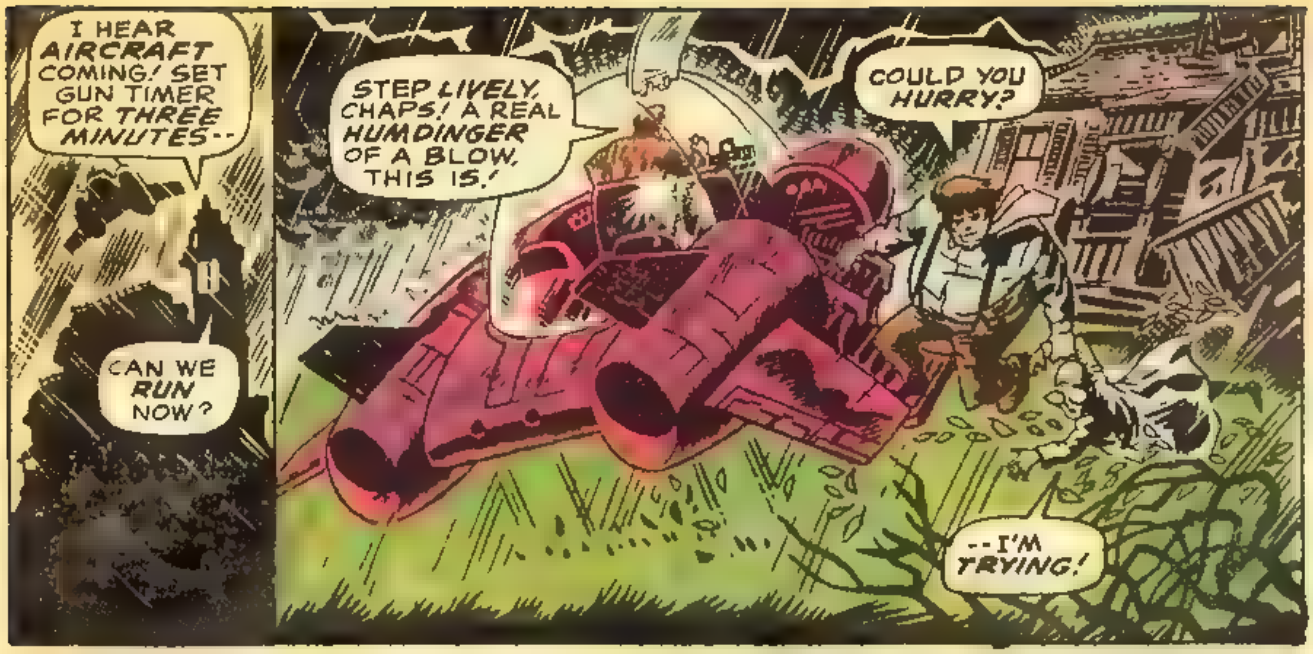
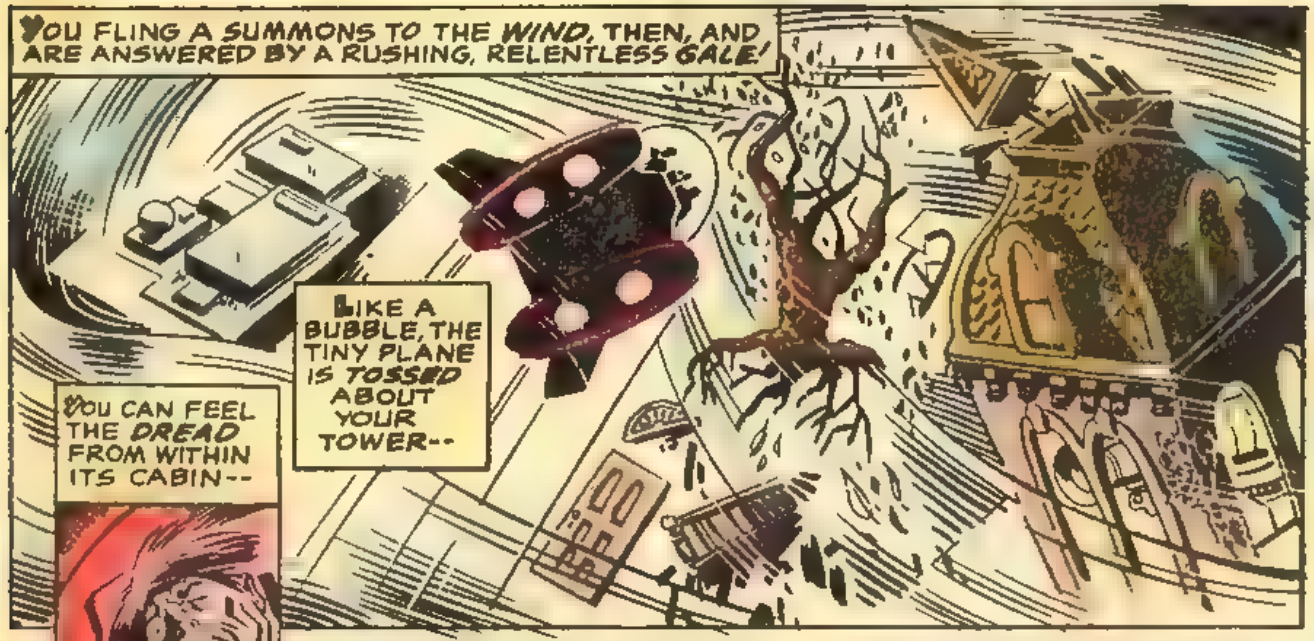
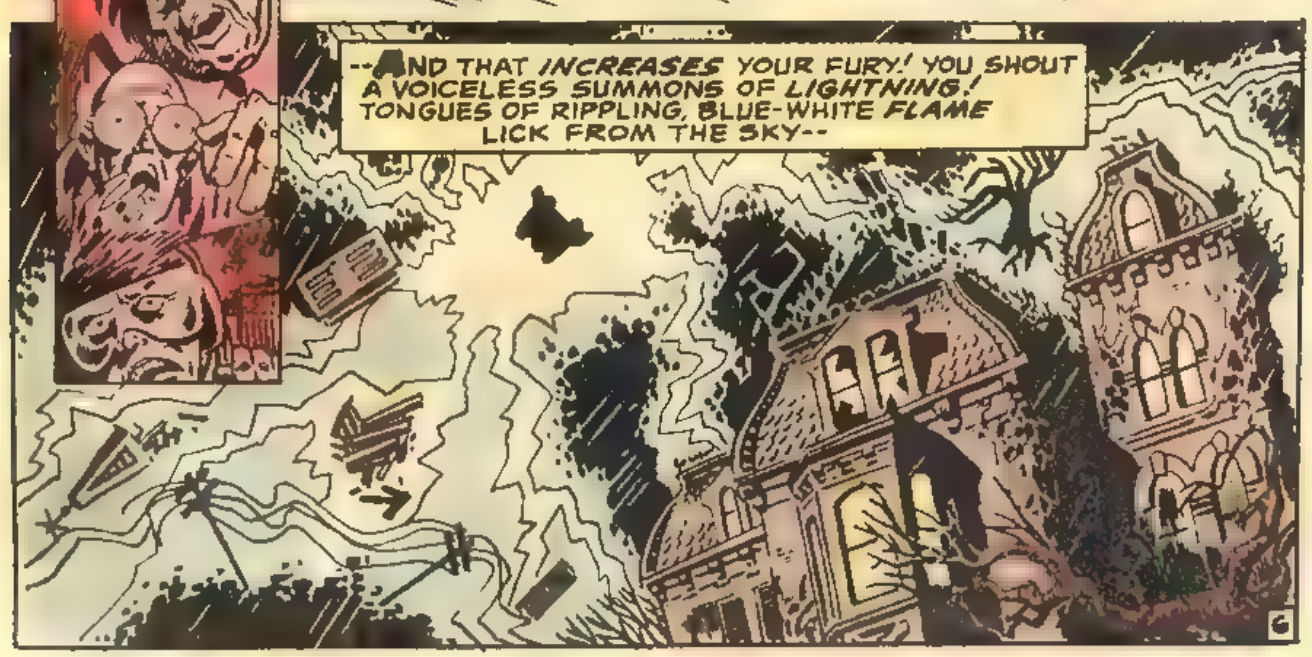
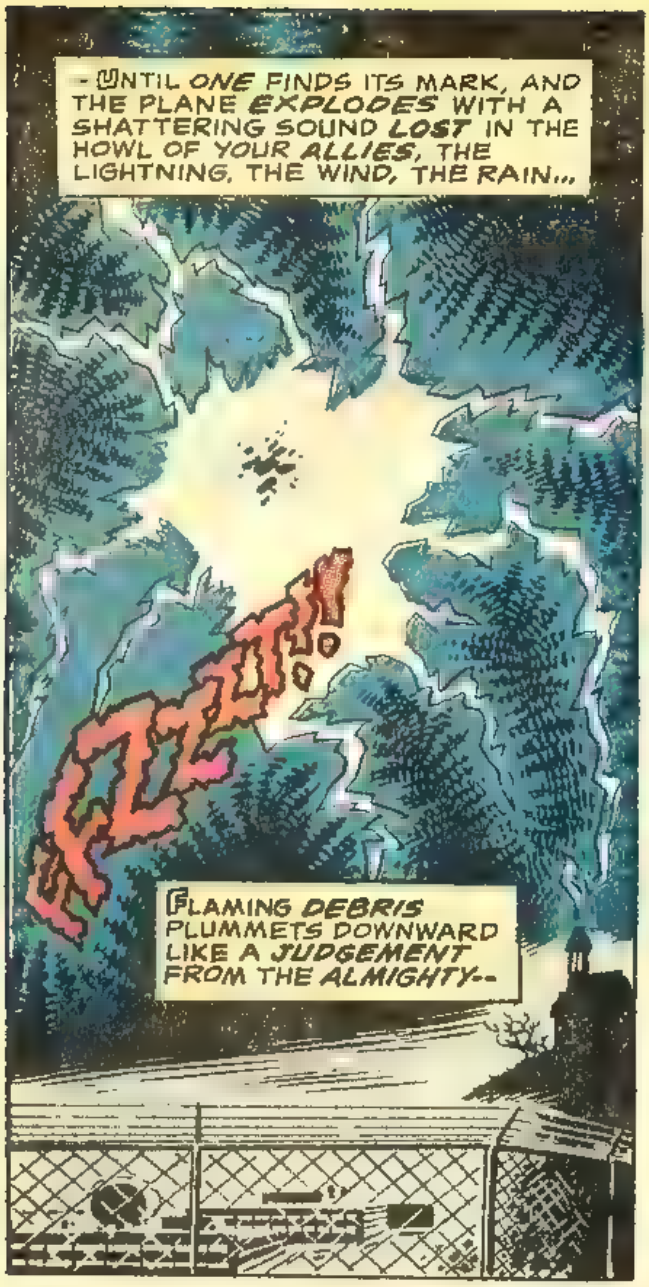

I HEAR AIRCRAFT COMING! SET GUN TIMER FOR THREE MINUTES--
CAN WE RUN NOW?
STEP LIVELY, CHAPS! A REAL HUMDINGER OF A BLOW, THIS IS!
COULD YOU HURRY?
--I'M TRYING!


YOU FLING A SUMMONS TO THE WIND, THEN, AND ARE ANSWERED BY A RUSHING, RELENTLESS GALE!
LIKE A BUBBLE, THE TINY PLANE IS TOSSED ABOUT YOUR TOWER--
YOU CAN FEEL THE DREAD FROM WITHIN ITS CABIN--


--AND THAT INCREASES YOUR FURY! YOU SHOUT A VOICELESS SUMMONS OF LIGHTNING! TONGUES OF RIPPLING, BLUE-WHITE FLAME LICK FROM THE SKY--


--UNTIL ONE FINDS ITS MARK, AND THE PLANE EXPLODES WITH A SHATTERING SOUND LOST IN THE HOWL OF YOUR ALLIES, THE LIGHTNING, THE WIND, THE RAIN...
FLIZZIT!
FLAMING DEBRIS PLUMMETS DOWNWARD LIKE A JUDGEMENT FROM THE ALMIGHTY--

IT SUNDERS YOUR SLATES, DROPS WITHIN YOUR TOWER, TOUCHES THE SPY'S EXPLOSIVES...!
KKRAAAK!
A SURGE OF SHEER, INTENSE JOY GRIPS YOU AS AWESOME PRESSURE BUILDS BEHIND YOUR WALLS! YOU REALIZE YOUR LONG TORMENT IS FINISHED--
--AND, AN INSTANT LATER, YOUR SPIRIT IS FINALLY FREED!

YOU LINGER ON UNTIL THE FIRST RAYS OF THE MORNING...YOU VIEW THE TORN SITE WHERE YOU STOOD, AND THE GLEAMING GOVERNMENT BUILDING BEYOND--SYMBOL OF AN AGE THAT HAS NO PLACE FOR HAUNTED HOUSES! THEN, YOU FADE INTO FINAL PEACE...!
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ITEM! The biggest news of the month is the fact that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA will be pencilling SPIDER-MAN once more. But, we've still another surprise in store for all you Spideyphiles—Stan and Johnny have decided to go back to the Web-Swinger's original style of story picturization, and also to put more emphasis on Peter Parker's private life, as so many of you have requested. So, whatever you do, don't dare miss SPIDER-MAN #82, now on sale. It marks the beginning of still another plateau of greatness for the most realistic, most respected, most razzle-dazzle superhero the world has ever known! And we've been giving you the soft-sell, 'cause you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember ol' JERRY SIEGEL, one of comicdom's top-name pioneers who basked in our Bullpen before heading for a more leisurely life on the West Coast? Well, just thought you'd like to know that his daughter recently won a scholarship to UCLA. Our congrats to a grand guy and his groovy girl-child.

ITEM! We've finally made up our minds! After all these years, we're gonna see if we can do it! It'll probably set the comics-mag world back on its collective ear, but nothing'll stop us! It's such an earth-shattering decision, that we hardly know how to tell you! It's like the end of an era! It'll shatter the traditions of Marveldom to their very foundation! But, do it we must, and do it we shall! So, hold onto your hats, 'cause here's the bit! Starting sooner or later, in some ish or other, we're gonna try using PERIODS instead of those furshfugginer EXCLAMATION POINTS with which we've been ending every sentence since comics began! It'll take a while before you'll notice the change, because we print our mags so many months in advance, but watch for it—if you can stand the shock! Will it lessen your reading pleasure? Will it toss you off-balance? Will you think you picked up the wrong mag? Will anyone give a hoot? Only time will tell! Only Marvel would care! Only the Thing has four-fingered hands!

ITEM! For years, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER has been the butt of a zillion jokes around here because of his painstaking approach to everything he writes and draws. In fact, MERRY MARIE SEVERIN used to claim it took Larry as long to sharpen his pencil as it took anyone else to draw a couple of pages. Of course, Larry proudly replied that he had the sharpest pencils in the place! Anyway, we've suddenly realized that the Laughing One's RAW-HIDE KID mag is one of Marvel's steadiest and most dependable selling 15¢ers— and Western story fans everywhere have been demanding that we publish it monthly. So, shed a tear for poor Larrupin' Larry. Instead of coasting along, doing one mag every two months, and getting his kicks with the pencil sharpener, he's gonna have to leave the ol' corral and ride bent-for-leather to make his deadlines! Can he do it? Will he do it? We'll letcha know, soon as he dries his eyes

ITEM! Remember a few years back when we told you about FEDERICO FELLINI visiting us at the Bullpen because he was a merry Marvel fan? Well, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? We've gotta tell you that we have another, equally famous European film director who's equally hung-up on our mixed-up little mags. So say hello to world-renowned ALAIN RESNAIS, the French film genius who gave us such films as HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR . . . LA GUERRE EST FINI . . . and LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD. Alain's a fanatical Marvel booster from 'way back, and he and SMILIN' STAN have shared many pleasant hours rappin' about movies, comic mags, and the arts in general. According to Alain, Marvel Comics are definitely the "in" thing in the arty circles of Europe today—and that kinda talk isn't exactly gonna turn us off!—Just thought you'd like to know the company you're in, Faithful One!

ITEM! Here's a late flash from MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL. (That new company we told you about a few ishes back, remember?) All members in good standing of the ol' MMMS are eligible to join M.I. for the courtesy rate of only 50¢, which entitles you to a new membership card, club catalogue, and a copy of the club magazine. Just send your four-bits, for postage and handling, to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 718, Culver City, Calif. 90230. (Honest Irving Forbush tried to sneak his own home address in there, but luckily we caught it in time!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Each week brings hundreds of letters asking exactly how we produce our mags. And now, if the competition will promise not to peek, here's where we'll try to clue you in. First, the artist and the writer have a story conference, because, unlike other comic-mag publishers, Marvel believes the artist contributes as much to the story as the writer does. Then, once the plot details have been worked out, the artist goes off by his lonesome and draws the strip in pencil—drawing it any way he pleases, since the script hasn't yet been written. (So far as we know, Marvel is the only company to use this free-and-easy, highly-creative method.—Free plug!) Next, the pencilled drawings are given to the writer, who creates the dialogue balloons, captions, and any other copy needed. After that, a letterer prints all the copy in the correct places (we hope), using a lettering pen dipped in jet black india ink. Finally, the pages go to the inker (embellisher) (or delineator—depending upon how fancy you are), who draws over the pencilled sketches with a brush and/or pen, also using permanent black ink. Now that the pages are drawn and lettered, we make copies of them and one of our swingin' staff of colorists paints these copies so that they can be used as color guides by the engraver when he receives the mag. After the engraver makes the engravings, they're sent to the printer and another Marvel masterwork is lovingly brought to life. Next, the millions of printed copies go to a national distributor who sends them to regional wholesalers who send them to your friendly neighborhood magazine dealer whose tender loving heart goes pitty-pat every time you buy one!

Excelsior!

Stan

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

Tomes from the Tower!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP 625 MADISON AV. NEW YORK N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Gang,

I just picked up three copies of TOWER OF SHADOWS #1 and I thought I'd write in just to tell you how much I liked it. I've been wanting some good fantasy mags for quite a while and I'm glad you finally put some out.

Steranko's story, of course, had the best art, and I liked Buscema's story the best, although the stories didn't have quite the surprise ending that ASTONISH, STRANGE TALES, and SUSPENSE, etc., had. By the way, I hear that Jim Steranko is leaving you. That's too bad, but it always seemed to me that Jim never got along with you people anyhow.

My one main objection about TOWER OF SHADOWS was the way you had "The Digger" popping around all over the place. I don't mind him that much, really; it's just that I've had about all I can stand of these "Uncle Weird" types from your competitors' magazines. If you had to have someone acting as a narrator, why couldn't you have the Watcher instead? Oh, well.

By the way, why not have Bashful Barry Smith (who has become one of my favorite artists) pencil some stories? His style would fit the mag very well.

Well, till Stan stubs his toe over the Hulk, Mine Make Marvel, or something like that. Dirk E. Burhans, 161 Grosvenor Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

Right about now, Dirk, you should be just about the most confirmed Marvelite of all--since virtually every one of your wishes has come to pass. Bashful Barry has done, and will continue to do, myriad mystery tales for both mags, even though he's still nestled in Merrie Olde England, and our macabre M.C.'s are being partially replaced by members of the Bullpen narrating their own weirdo yarns.

Just one thing, though--whatever gave anybody the idea that Jaunty Jim and the rest of the Marvel maniacs never got along? Far as we know, there aren't any bigger Steranko fans in the entire cosmos than you'll find at 625 Madison Avenue! It's simply that Jim has other interests besides comics and thus doesn't produce the quantity of work he used to. He's currently at work on another mystery tale for us, though--and has done a penciling job for our romance mags that will soon see the light of day. To the Jaunty One, Marvel is home--and we sincerely want it to stay that way!

Dear Stan and the Gang,

Just thought I'd drop you a note on your magnificent new mag, TOWER OF SHADOWS! Mortal words cannot express my delight in this new break-through for Marvel.

I'll begin with the cover: John Romita did a very good job (he seems to be doing a lot of your covers lately). The corner picture was good, but I think that if it was done by Steranko it would attract more readers. The first story, "At the Stroke of Midnight!", was the best story in the art catagory. Jim's view of Digger was the best in the book. But, what do I mean by the art standpoint? It's just that I think Stan's story "A Time to Die!" was the best story in the book. Big John's art was especially good in the last four panels of the story.

The third story, "From Beyond the Brink", showed us that Mr. Craig can write, too. His art in this magazine was very excellent, not comical like in IRON MAN #14.

Eagerly awaiting your next issue.

Ken McIntyre, 1948 Robinway Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

And we, for our part, are eagerly awaiting comment on TOWER OF SHADOWS #2--which had just gone on sale when these perishable words were written. That explains why all the liltin' letters this month deal with our collectors' item first ish--and helps us avoid commenting on the fact that you thought Johnny Craig drew a comical superhero or two in IRON MAN #14.

Dear Stan, Jim, John, Don, Sam, and Artie,

Congratulations on your newest hit, TOWER OF SHADOWS (perfect monikerl). We know it's not original . . . we didn't clamor for it . . . your publisher probably wanted it for BRAND ECHH competition . . . but it's really great!!!

First, please don't let Steranko ink his pencils!!! For the first time in my life, I actually cringed at Steranko's art . . . because of the icky, blobby inks! Also the panels were too small and made the story even more unattractive! Don't get me wrong--Steranko is one of the greatest in comic art-dom. If you lose him I'll never forgive you. I just hated the inking! Sinnott or Adkins is best as the inker. The story, I thought, wasn't too great either.

Second . . . of course, you goofed, right? I mean, Johnny Craig just didn't draw "From Beyond the Brink" . . . John Romita did . . . didn't he? It sure looked like he did! I thought this story was the best of the three.

The third story was a morbid surprise, especially the ending; great! This story, in my opinion, was second best. It would have been best if the plot hadn't been used so much before in other mags.

Suggestion: how about, for a special ish, an epic twenty-pager by Steranko and Adkins?

Well, thanks muchly . . . T.O.S number one was great!

Peter Wallace, 315-10th Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 26701

And we've got even bigger things in store, Pete.

By the way, if we haven't done so already, this would be the best time and place to clear up the matter of the artwork on "From Beyond the Brink." It was penciled and inked basically by Johnny Craig--but for various reasons Our Leader felt that some of the faces should be done over. And, since Mr. C. lives 'way down in Pennsylvania and the deadline was tight as Ringo's drum, we had to have Jazzy Johnny Romita come to the last-minute rescue. But, in the ensuing scramble to get the mag out, we forgot to list him at co-artist on the strip.

By the way, for the legion of Craig fans out there, Johnny's hard at work drawing a second spine-chiller (this one an adaptation of an H.P. Lovecraft story written by Rascally Roy Thomas) that'll be winging its batlike way to you soon in one of our two tempest-tossed titles. Okay, believer?

Dear Stan,

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1 really hit me where I live. I loved every page of it. Everybody did a great job. I especially enjoyed Jim Steranko's "At the Stroke of Midnight!" because it featured Jim's sensational writing talents as well as his stupendous artistic talents. I always felt he belonged in a mag like this ever since reading S.H.I.E.L.D.

I was overjoyed at the way the mag was handled. When I first saw the announcement of the mag in the Bullpen Bulletins I was afraid that you might follow the course of many other comic companies and present us with a mag full of stories about as suspenseful as a Casper cartoon or something, but you didn't. You presented us with a mag full of stories worthy of Alfred Hitchcock. I'm sure that CHAMBER OF DARKNESS will be equally great.

Please keep up the great work and you might have another winner on your hands! Brian Hoard, 2356 N. Noelson Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207

By now, letters are pouring in on the first issue of CHAMBER OF DARKNESS (our creepy-crawler companion mag) as well, but we'll leave all comment on it to its own letters page. And, if you think this is just a sneaky way to work in an extra plug for C.O.D. (as we call it on days when we're desperate for a laugh)--why, take one giant step, Brian!

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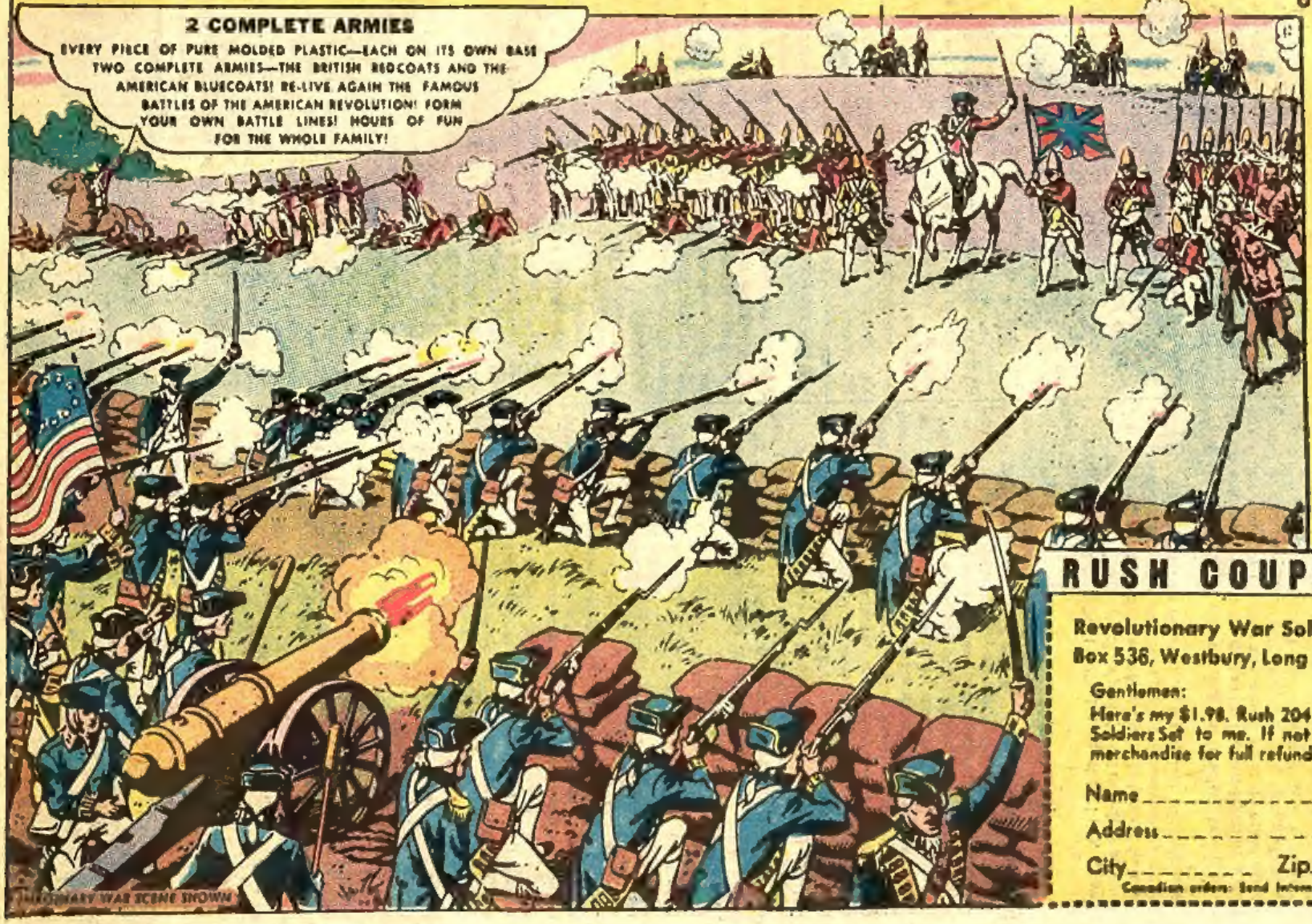

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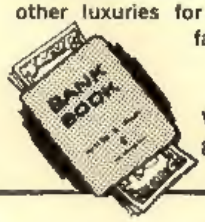

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Do you have art talent worth developing? Take our free test and see

If you have ever wondered whether you had art talent, here is your chance to find out. The founders of Famous Artists School have put together what many artists and educators consider to be the most revealing test of art ability ever devised. It is offered to you free.

Designed for people uncertain of their ability

The people who take this Art Talent Test are of all ages and occupations. Most of them have little or no previous art training. By professional standards, their drawings may be awkward and amateurish. But the ones who possess the gift of art talent reveal it in many ways. Through simple little exercises, they show the inborn sense of design, the feeling for composition, the ability to observe, and the lively imagination which are such important ingredients of art talent.

The reliability of this method of screening, as well as the effectiveness of the training, has been proven again and again by the impressive record of success of our students and graduates.

They passed the test and went on to become successful artists

When Anthony Fotia took the Art Talent Test, he was a mail clerk, "stuck" in a low-pay routine job. Today, he's an artist for a printing firm, doing exciting creative work. Kathleen Gironda went from a salesgirl in a department store to a fashion illustrator in the same store. Virginia Bartter, a farmer's wife and mother of three, now sells just about everything she paints. These are just a few of the literally hundreds of "success stories" our students report to us.

So if you love to sketch or dabble in paints—and have often wondered if you "have what it takes" to become a well-paid commercial artist or sparetime professional painter—why not seize this opportunity to find out? All you need is a pencil and a half-hour of your time. With your special interest, it will be one of the most intriguing and enjoyable half-hours you ever spent.

What the Talent Test covers

First, you will be shown ten pairs of simple designs and asked to pick the one in each pair that has "a feeling of rightness" about it. Then you will see twenty pairs of pictures, and check which composition in each pair is more pleasing. You'll be asked to do original sketches to demonstrate your imagination and powers of observation. And in similar ways, your feeling for mood, form, movement, and so on will be tested.

When you complete the test and mail it back, it will be graded free by a member of the School's staff. If you receive a passing grade (and we must warn you that many don't), or can offer sufficient evidence of art talent, you will then be eligible to enroll. You may choose whichever of our courses is best suited to your goals.

Courses offer personal instruction

These courses were especially designed for talented people who can't leave their families or jobs for art training away from home. The 12 famous artists who started the School over 19 years ago contributed all their lifetime secrets of art technique to what they believe to be the finest art lessons ever created. They took time out from their own busy careers and made thousands of special drawings to demonstrate each point. Then they devised a method of constructive criticism that is as personal as tutoring. Your instructor, who is himself required to be a practicing professional artist, spends up to several hours on just one of your assignments. He actually draws or paints his suggestions for improvement, and then "talks" to you by letter, dictating a long, friendly message of specific advice and encouragement.

You will receive an interesting brochure about our School and its revolutionary methods along with your free Art Talent Test. If you have ever dreamed of success in art, and wondered if it were possible, why not mail the coupon at left for both the Talent Test and the brochure right now?

Famous Artists School
Studio A-5296
Westport, Conn. 06880

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr. / *Mrs.* / *Miss* ← *Please circle one and print name* _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ *Zip* _____ *Age* _____

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